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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/791,084	03/02/2004	Todd W. Steigerwald	5867-00800	2937
35617	7590	05/09/2011		
DAFFER MCDANIEL LLP P.O. BOX 684908 AUSTIN, TX 78768			EXAMINER NGUYEN, DONGHAID	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3729	
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			05/09/2011	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/791,084

**Applicant(s)**

STEIGERWALD ET AL.

**Examiner**

DONGHA D. NGUYEN

**Art Unit**

3729

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2011.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 24-27 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-940)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Amendment***

1. The amendment filed on February 24, 2011 has been considered and entered. Claims 1-9 and 24-29 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-9 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

“resonating each of the resonant circuit elements at a carrier frequency of the signal transmitted by one of the pair of antennas” (claim 1, lines 7-8) are vague and indefinite because it is unclear as to how to resonate each of the resonant circuit element and how it applies to the method of forming the apparatus.

“the planar portions” (claim 1, line 12) and “the extension” (claim 1, line 14) lack antecedence basis.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9 and 24-29 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,411,261 to Lilly or in view of US Patent 6,542,131 to Haapanen.

Regarding claim 1, Lilly discloses a method for forming an apparatus (100, see Fig. 2B) configured to reduce electromagnetic interference between a pair of antennas coupled to a wireless communication device (See Col. 1, lines 37-40 and Col. 3, lines 50-57), the method comprises: extracting a shape of the apparatus from a thin sheet of conductive material (104, 304, 804; etc.); folding the shape into a plurality of resonant circuit elements (see Fig. 2B has the same configuration as Fig. 7D of application); and providing a wavelength of a carrier frequency of a signal transmitted by one of the pair of antennas; resonating each of the resonant circuit elements at a carrier frequency of the signal transmitted by one of the pair of antennas (see Col. 1, lines 28- 32). Lilly does not teach the apparatus is formed having a length substantially equal to one-half of a wavelength to the carrier frequency. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the apparatus having the length substantially equal to one-half of the wavelength to the carrier frequency, since it has been held that where the general condition (forming resonant circuit elements) of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges (length of the apparatus) involves only routine skill in the art. In re Allier, 105 USPQ 233.

In an alternative, Haapanen teaches the an apparatus (5) having length substantially equal to one-half of a wavelength (see Col. 2, lines 47-49) to the carrier frequency of one of the antennas (1, 2) for suppressing mutual interference between antennas place close to each other (see Abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Lilly by utilizing the apparatus having a length substantially equal to one-half of a wavelength to the carrier frequency as taught by Haapanen for suppressing mutual interference between antennas.

Note the recitations of: "apparatus is formed having a length extending in a plane parallel to a plane that is coplanar with the planar portions of the pair of antennas, and extends a spaced distance from one antenna towards the other antenna" is intended use and it has been held that the recitation with respect to the manner in which the claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitation. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Regarding claims 2-5, Lilly discloses the thin sheet of conductive material comprises a metal selected from a group comprising iron (Fe), copper (Cu), gold (Au), silver (Ag), tin (Sn), and nickel (Ni), or a metal alloy selected from a group comprising beryllium copper (BeCu), phosphor bronze (Ph+Cu/Zn/Sn), magnesium alloys (Mg/Al/O) and steel (Fe/C) and a primarily ferrous-based material is stamping and laser or chemical etching (See, Col. 4, lines 24-32). Note that since Lilly discloses the same the conductive material for forming the apparatus as claimed above. Therefore, it is inherently comprised a relative permittivity value of about 0.0 F/m to about 1.0 F/m and a relative permeability value of about 10 H/m to about 100,000 H/m.

Regarding claim 6, Lilly discloses the plurality of resonant circuit elements comprise a plurality of rectangular elements (1034 or 1134 see Figs. 10-11) connected to and arranged above a common reference plane (1004 or 1104) by a plurality of vertical segments (1006 or 1106).

Regarding claim 7, Lilly discloses a dielectric material (514) between the plurality of rectangular elements and the common reference plane.

Regarding claims 8-9 and 24, Lilly discloses the plurality of resonant circuit elements include A-shaped elements (see Fig. 7), further related Figs. 8-12 show a plurality of relatively long domed elements spaced apart by a plurality of relatively thin slots and arranging a dielectric material within the relatively thin slots between the pluralities of relatively long domed elements (see Col. 7, lines 13-14).

Regarding claim 26, Lilly discloses the plurality of resonant circuit elements having a periodic surface (1034) that is less than or equal to one-tenth of the wavelength of the carrier frequency (see Col. 4, lines 45-47 and Fig. 10 shows a periodic surface 1034 is about the same or less than the height of the apparatus).

Regarding claim 27, Lilly discloses the apparatus is formed without a dielectric substrate (see Fig. 2B).

Regarding claim 25, Lilly/Haapanen does not disclose the thin sheet of conductive material is selected from a range of thicknesses comprising about 0.1 mm to about 0.2 mm. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to choose the thin sheet of conductive having any thickness level such as about 0.1 mm to about 0.2 mm, since applicants have not disclosed the specific thickness of about 0.1 mm to about 0.2 mm for the thin sheet of conductive material, would solve any stated problem or for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform well with the thin sheet of conductive material thickness as disclosed by Lilly/Haapanen.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed on February 24, 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that "Lilly and Haapanen cannot be combined without destroying the intended purpose of each reference teachings" (see "Remarks" page 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph). The Examiner disagrees because the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981). Furthermore, Haapanen teach the apparatus has the length as claimed (i.e., equal to one-half of a wavelength of the carrier frequency of one of the antennas) for suppressing mutual interference between antennas placed close to each other (see Abstract and Col. 2, lines 47-49).

In response to applicant's argument that "Lilly and Haapanen fail to form an apparatus between a pair of antennas, with said apparatus having a length extending in a plane parallel to a plane that is coplanar with the planar portions of the pair of antennas, and extends a spaced distance from one antenna toward the other antenna substantially equal to one-half a wavelength of the carrier frequency" (see "Remarks page 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph), a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, and then it meets the claim.

***Conclusion***

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **DONGHAI D. NGUYEN** whose telephone number is (571)272-4566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (9:00-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Derris H. Banks** can be reached on (571)-272-4419. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DN  
May 5, 2011

/Donghai D. Nguyen/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3729